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AGAWAM

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GRADUATION 2021

Distant no more, Class of 2021 celebrates graduation



The members of the Class of 2021 are excited as their in-person ceremony begins on the fields of Agawam High School. A more traditional graduation was held this year after the pandemic resulted in a drive-thru event last year. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Buzz words like resiliency, strength, and perseverance have been used throughout the pandemic. But they were a central theme of the nearly post-pandemic graduation ceremony held last Saturday afternoon at Agawam High School.

“We made it,” was also a common theme, because they were all in it together. From Superintendent Sheila Hoffman, the central

office, to the high school administration, and the members of the Class of 2021, who have been dealing with pandemic conditions since the end of their junior year.

Class Salutatorian David Dagenais spoke on the fact he and others were taught by parents and relatives that high school is the best time of their lives. But he said the pandemic took much of it away.

“No Friday night football,” he said. “No school lunch. No band concerts. No pep rally. We were

literally divided into two separate ‘cohorts’ of individuals. Most importantly, we lacked daily, in-school interactions with our teachers and friends. All of this is happening, remember, during that highly anticipated ‘greatest time of your life’ which we’ve always been told to make the most of. We were all left wondering when we could go back and be young again.”

But Dagenais also found the

GRADUATION | page 9

Major team effort brings in-person ceremony to fruition

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – Last year, with massive staging and a “parking plan,” the Class of 2020 graduated not with each other, but with their families as they sat inside individual vehicles at a makeshift ceremony held at Agawam Junior High School.

But this year, thanks in part to a massive vaccination rate, restrictions lifted just in time for an in-person ceremony to be planned, re-planned, and executed by a very persistent and dedicated staff and volunteers at Agawam High School.

AHS Principal Thomas Schnepf said it was a true team effort, though he specifically mentioned Vice Principal Timothy Karetka and co-Class of 2021 Advisors Kathryn Dromey and Richard Veres for their parts in organizing the many individuals who helped to plan the event, as well as the numerous graduation-day staff that worked in numerous capacities from security to running waters to thirsty people in the blazing sun.

Graduation was held in the practice fields adjacent to the

Harmon A. Smith turf field. The turf field was not used because of the damage it would suffer from the equipment as well as the dress shoes worn by graduates.

“We were very pleased that we were able to do an in-person ceremony,” said Schnepf. “A lot of people worked really hard to help make it happen.”

An in-person ceremony was always in the works as restrictions and gathering sizes were improving gradually since April. At first, seniors were only going to be allowed to have two guests each, but that was increased to six per senior. Each set of guests had their own small section designated by a sign with a photo of the senior they were there for.

“We used a lottery system to determine seating so people had an equal chance of getting a decent seat,” said Schnepf.

For the second straight year, a large tron screen was utilized so those that were a far distance from the stage could see the speakers and graduates as they were receiving diplomas. Agawam’s community television sta-

CEREMONY | page 9

Lions Clubs monthly lunch brings veterans, families back together

By Shelby Macri
 smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam Lions Club has partnered with Building Bridges to provide a Veteran’s Luncheon, which will be held monthly at St. David’s Episcopal Church in Feeding Hills.

The Building Bridges program was started by Reverend Christopher Carlisle as a way to address the needs of veterans in some way. They joined the Lion’s Club in Agawam so they could help serve this town among others across the state. Building Bridges

found that providing food gives a chance to create a community and have people come together, so the Lion’s Club decided on a luncheon.

They are further partnering with St. David’s Episcopal Church, and this year will be the third year of the veterans’ luncheon. The luncheon ran from the end of 2019 to the beginning of last year, and was shut down during the pandemic for the remainder of the year. The luncheon started back up last year last month, when the church and Lion’s Club held a curbside pick up for the

lunches.

When the end-of-mask restriction announcement was made, the Lions Club and St. David’s started planning to have the June luncheon indoors. Groups were able to enter the church at 11:30 a.m. where they would receive a hot lunch with meat, vegetables, salad, and dessert. The church’s director Reverend Dr. Harvey Hill said that the amount of people who showed up was as expected and that having the lunch back inside was great.

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PHOTO BY SHELBY MACRI

From left; Jane Coulombe, George Bitzas, John O’Hare, Sissy Cimmera, and Dave Coulombe.



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American Legion marks Memorial Day



Buglers Christian Rua and Gabriel Rua play taps on Memorial Day as members of the American Legion went throughout town celebrating the holiday on May 31.

AGAWAM – On Memorial Day, May 31, the Agawam American Legion Post 185 Color Guard and Agawam Veterans Council visited several cemeteries and public locations to honor deceased veterans. Wreathes were laid in several locations and a pair of Agawam students performed taps with their bugles.



Veterans from the American Legion march through town.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Mayor William Sapelli and State Sen. John Velis lay a wreath at the memorial located at the American Legion Post 185.

Westfield State to offer SAT online program

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University will offer multiple sessions of its SAT Online Summer Institute for high school students, starting June 14. In partnership with Educational Testing Consultants Inc., the SAT Online Summer Institute provides 20 hours of live, online instruction offered in multiple

formats, including a condensed two-week session. Multiple sessions will be held, making it convenient for students to choose the time and format that works best for them to study and develop the essential test-taking

SAT | page ?

School health records to be destroyed

AGAWAM – Agawam Public School Health Records for former students that either graduated or left the school system between Sept 2015 and June 2016 will have their school health records destroyed as permitted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Anyone wishing a copy of their health records must contact the nurse within the school they last attended before June 30, 2020.

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Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

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Cultural Council announces writing contest winners

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is pleased to announce the winners of their seventh Writing Contest. The annual competition was revived this year after a brief hiatus. Although held virtually this year, first, second and third-place monetary prizes are awarded in the following categories:

Grades 5-6 - Students were asked to write a composition or a poem about their experiences at home during the Coronavirus Pandemic, and specifically, how they handled online learning with their teachers.

Winning entries in this category were:

1st place (\$50.00): Chelsea Casamento

2nd place (\$25.00): Nico Patuano

3rd place (\$15.00): Hunter O’Connell

Grades 9-12 - Students were asked whether they thought the COVID 19 lockdown has had a deep and long-lasting impact on them, particularly as it may have affected their health and safety, family concerns, and education. A poem or composition was requested.

Here are the winning writers in this category:

1st place (\$50.00): Grace Payne

2nd place (\$25.00): Eden Berry

3rd place (\$15.00): DeVon Thompson

The Cultural Council offers its congratulations to the winners, and expresses its deep appreciation to all those students and their families who entered this year’s competition. We know that life has been difficult for many during this pandemic. But we encourage these talented students to continue their writing efforts, and look forward to hearing from them -- and many others -- during the 2021 ACC Writing Competition to be held later this year. Well done!

For further information, please contact Mary Jane Augusti at: maryjane.augusti@gmail.com, or (413) 348-6125.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC, although no state monies were used for this competition. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Scholarship awarded



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Charlie and Susan Alvanos of Ameriprise Financial, Alvanos & Associates in Feeding Hills presented their annual Hellenes Scholarship Award to two very worthy young men. Luke Stathis of Longmeadow, a senior at Fordham University majoring in Finance and Aditya Vipul Shah of Springfield, a sophomore at Western New England University majoring in Finance and Accounting were awarded the scholarships on May 18 at the Alvanos & Associates Ameriprise Office in Feeding Hills. The Hellenes Scholarship is awarded each year to worthy High School seniors or College students who exemplify the academic success as well as the high values of the Hellenes’ Scholarship, including dedication to Humanity, Exercise, Learning, Life, Education, Nation, Excellence and Scripture. These values were part of the fabric of our mothers’ lives, and whom the scholarship is given in memory of: Mercina Alvanos and Kathleen Novotney. The scholarship has proudly been given every year for 15 years to members of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral and the Western Massachusetts community.

Feeding Hills store offering COVID-19 vaccines for ages 12 to 15

QUINCY – Stop & Shop, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), today announced that select pharmacy locations across the Northeast are now offering Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines in addition to existing supply of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which have been available in Stop & Shop Pharmacy locations since January 2021. On May 12, the CDC authorized expanded use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to individuals 12 and older, and United States PREP Acts authorizes Stop & Shop’s qualified pharmacists to administer vaccines to this expanded age group.

In addition to the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, customers can now walk in or schedule an appointment

on Stop & Shop’s website to receive a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at select locations, though availability for walk-ins will be determined by store supply levels. Stop & Shop’s over 250 pharmacy locations are currently offering Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccine availability varies by store, and customers should visit the Stop & Shop COVID-19 website at www.stopandshop.com/covid-vaccine for information on specific vaccine availability near them.

“Stop & Shop has been proud to support our communities throughout the pandemic, most recently by administering the COVID-19 vaccine,” said Katie Thornell, Director of Pharmacy Operations at Stop & Shop. “We are excited to begin providing the Pfizer vaccine to

our customers as young as twelve years of age to help protect members of the community against COVID-19.”

Written consent from a parent or guardian is required for a trained and trusted Stop & Shop pharmacist to administer the Pfizer vaccine to anyone aged 12 to 18. Additionally, Stop & Shop will require patients under 16 to be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or authorized representative to be vaccinated.

In December, Stop & Shop announced a partnership with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to be among the first COVID-19 vaccine providers, making the shot available to its customers across the Northeast. The coronavirus vaccine is being adminis-

tered at no out-of-pocket cost.

During immunization, customers will be required to wear PPE and pharmacists will be equipped with masks, gloves, and face shields. The pharmacy team utilizes the same thorough disinfection protocols for all patients, disinfecting and sanitizing between each patient to ensure the health & safety for all patients.

Flu, pneumonia, shingles and other immunizations are currently available to customers at all Stop & Shop Pharmacy locations. To find your nearest Stop & Shop pharmacy, visit www.stopandshop.com/pharmacy. For more information on Stop & Shop’s rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, visit www.stopandshop.com/covid-vaccine.

Public meetings to resume

AGAWAM – Mayor William P. Sapelli is pleased to announce that all town public boards will resume in person meetings that will be open to the general public no later than July 1. Governor Baker has announced that the Commonwealth’s State of Emergency will expire June 15, 2021.

“We are thrilled to get back to the normal order of board meetings with the public able to attend in person,” said Mayor Sapelli.

Most board meetings will be held at the Senior Center. The town library is un-

dergoing renovations and the Agawam Senior Center has adequate space and equipment to accommodate meetings in a safe setting.

Effective May 29, the state mask mandate will be lifted. Vaccinated individuals will not be required to wear a mask when attending a public meeting. Non- vaccinated individuals are advised to continue to wear masks (especially indoors) and comply with social distancing requirements. Self-enforcement is encouraged.

Clearance sale for summer closing of consignment shop

AGAWAM – The Trading Post Consignment Shop located at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main Street, Agawam will be closing for the summer on June 16.

Starting June 2, and running until our close, everything will be a 50% off the ticketed price. Please stop in to check out our vast and unique inventory of clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry, books, games,

toys, various household and gift items and more.

We are open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. as well as Saturday, June 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are planning to re-open in mid-August.

For future news and information, please visit our The Trading Post Consignment Shop Facebook page or follow us on Instagram @fbctradingpost.

Chamber to host annual legislative luncheon

AGAWAM – The West of the River Chamber of the Commerce will host a hybrid of its annual Legislative Luncheon. The luncheon will feature appearances from State Senators John Velis and Adam Gomez as well as State Rep. Mike Finn. The event will be held on June 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This will be an in-person lunch event at Storowton Tavern in West Springfield or participants will be able to view the event virtually and pick up lunch the day before. For more information, contact robin@westoftheriverchamber.com.

Art of Christine Corrow on display

Paintings by Christine Corrow will be on display at the Agawam Public Library during the month of June. The exhibit is free and visitors are welcome during regular library hours.

Christine Corrow is a native of Massachusetts who has painted in several different mediums in her more than 30-year art career. She started her career early in life as a young mother by using her natural talent in the medium of tole painting on slate and wood. Over the years, she has transformed her artistic vision into abstracted views filled with color and light. Mostly self-taught, she is currently pursuing her life-long dream of a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts at Worcester State University. Christine is passionate about her art and wishes to share the power of art as a healing tool with others. She is a

devout Christian who looks to God for her inspiration. For Christine, painting is a spiritual experience and its healing powers are significant to her vision and her desire to help others heal through her artwork.

She has had her artworks in several local businesses as well as in exhibitions at Arts Worcester and The Sprinkler Factory, and Worcester Art Museum’s Sculpted Flora.

The exhibit will be available for viewing during the month of June. Visitors are welcome at the Agawam Public Library during regular open hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please contact Adult Services Library Associate Shari Petrucci at (413) 789-1550 X8867 or smpetru@agawamlibrary.org if you are interested in displaying artwork at the library.

ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 739 calls for service from May 31 to June 6 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Sunday, June 6

Julie Czuprynski, 34, of 59 Amherst Ave., Agawam, was arrested at 8:58 a.m. on a warrant and charges of possession with intent to distribute a Class C substance, possession intent to distribute a Class D substance, and possession of a Class C substance.

Collin Robinson, 35, of 1730 Main St., Agawam, was arrested 8:58 a.m. on a warrant and charges of possession with intent to distribute a Class C substance, possession intent to distribute a Class D substance, and possession of a Class C substance.

Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Will my retirement benefits be cut because of my state pension?

By Russell Gloor

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Dear Rusty: I took early retirement at 20 years from the Louisiana public school system in 1996. Since then, I have continued to work in private schools, except for two years in public schools. I now have over 20 years in the Social Security system. Are they going to take money out of my tiny early state retirement check or lower my Social Security check? Is it true I can continue working and draw Social Security? I have reached full retirement age - I am 68. Signed: State Retiree

Dear State Retiree: There are 27 US states (including Louisiana) which, to varying degrees, do not require state employees to contribute to the federal Social Security program. Retirees in those states with a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security, and who still earn enough Social Security credits (from other work) to be eligible for Social Security benefits, are affected by a regulation known as the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which reduces the amount of your Social Security payment. So, the answer to your question is yes, your Social Security benefit will be reduced as a result of your LA state pension and WEP (your LA retirement benefit won't be affected).

The amount of the reduction to your Social Security benefit will depend upon the number of years of "significant" earnings you have been contributing to the Social Security program. With 20 or fewer years of Social Security-covered earnings, you would incur the maximum WEP reduction, which is either a) 50% of your state pension amount, or b) the maximum WEP reduction for your "eligibility year" (the year you turned 62, which I believe was 2015). In the case of b), the maximum WEP reduction to your Social Security benefit would be \$413/month.

Since you say you have "over 20 years" contributing to Social Security, be aware that the size of the WEP reduction to your Social Security will be smaller for each year over 20 that you have significant Social Security-covered earnings. For example, with 21 years of Social Security earnings, your WEP reduction would be \$371/month; with 25 years of Social Security contributions your WEP reduction would be \$206/month; and with 30 years of Social Security contributions, WEP would no longer apply. As you can see, the WEP reduction to your Social Security benefit decreases proportionally with each year over 20 that you have significant earnings and contribute to Social Security, and WEP disappears with 30 years of significant Social Security earnings.

Be aware that WEP will not affect you until you are collecting both your state pension and your Social Security benefit, and that for each full year you continue to work and contribute to Social Security the WEP reduction will diminish. And since you've passed your full retirement age you can collect Social Security and work without your benefits being affected. But, in any case, you shouldn't delay claiming your Social Security benefit past age 70 because that is when your Social Security benefit will reach maximum.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social

Letters to the Editor

Thank you to EB's for fundraising

Dear Editor,

The GFWC Agawam Women's Club would like to extend our gratitude to E.B.'s Restaurant for their continued support by sponsoring our club in their "Give Back Monday" program on April 5. E.B.'s generously donates 10% of all food sales on a designated Monday to a community service.

organization.

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Our objective is to enrich the quality of life in our community through a variety of educational, social, and cultural programs. Proceeds from "Give Back Monday" will allow us to

continue programs such as Bingo for Books, Holiday Baskets, Scholarships, Town Wide Spelling Bee, and First Time Bus Riders, to name a few.

Many thanks,

Susan L. Godfrey and Julie LeBarre

Ways and Means, GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club

Filibuster has no place in our government

Dear Editor,

Every senator who protects the filibuster is guilty of protecting a Jim Crow relic that was used to block civil rights legislation for decades. There's simply no way to get around its sinister legacy.

In the 20th century, the filibuster was used to block over 200 anti-lynching bills and held up the passage of

the 1964 Civil Rights Act for 60 days. Over and over again, it's been a weapon wielded by segregationists and white supremacists. We can't let the filibuster continue to block the voting and civil rights of Black and Brown Americans in the year 2021 - which it's currently poised to do unless we get rid of it.

I hope senators like Joe

Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema are acutely aware of this history as they continue to express support for the filibuster. I am urging them and the rest of the Senate to have courage and get rid of the filibuster as soon as possible. A minority of senators shouldn't be allowed to stop the progress the majority of Americans voted for.

Dennis Jordan

Agawam should investigate fully electric police vehicles

Dear Editor,

At the May 24 Agawam City Council budget workshop, there was discussion that the town is looking into purchasing hybrid police vehicles. Councilmember Rosemary Sandlin was right on point when she asked about fully electric police vehicles.

While I laud Agawam's willingness to incorporate considerations of climate change into their vehicle choices, hybrids just doesn't cut it. A February 22, 2021 article on Officer.com titled "Law Enforcement Agencies Using Electric Vehicles as a Cost-Cutting Tool" discusses the decision to purchase

all electric vehicles made by smaller town police forces:

"At first, the Bargersville [Indiana] Police Department considered a switch to hybrids, but . . . having to worry about both the gas and electric concerns posed a lot of possible issues." <https://www.officer.com/vehicles-fleet/vehicles-equipment/vehicles/article/21206086/law-enforcement-agencies-using-electric-vehicles-as-a-cost-cutting-tool>

Not only are fuel costs dramatically less, but without a combustion engine that requires oil changes, carburetors, exhaust mufflers and the like, maintenance costs are dra-

matically less. Bargersville was surprised to find they saved around \$64,000 per year per car.

As for performance, my own 2020 Chevy Bolt accelerates from 1 to 60 in 6.5 seconds. The Tesla Model 3 does it in 5.6 seconds with a top speed of 130 miles per hour. Because the battery, the bulk of the vehicle weight, is placed under the passenger section, EVs hug the road and handle smoothly.

All with zero emissions. Mayor Sapelli, please consider purchasing all electric vehicles for the police and other town departments.

Susan Grossberg

Filibuster needs to go

To the Editor,

There's so much being written about the filibuster these days, but in all the articles I read I feel like this important point gets lost: The filibuster isn't mentioned in our Constitution. Not even one time.

Despite what some in the Senate might imply, the filibuster is just a procedural measure that can be changed at any point, like when Mitch McCo-

nnell and Donald Trump put Amy Coney Barrett and Brett Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court.

That's why it's so ridiculous that the filibuster still stands in the way of almost every single progressive priority on Democrats' docket. The Biden-Harris administration clearly has their eye on passing necessary reforms, like comprehensive climate legislation and raising the

minimum wage, but the threat of the filibuster continues to throw the future of their legislative agenda into question.

Luckily it doesn't have to be this way. I'm putting my faith in the Senate to get rid of the filibuster as soon as possible. We can't let a minority of senators continue to block the progress a majority of Americans voted for.

Karen Asta-Ferrero



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Opinion

Faith Matters

A Wilderness Experience

By Ken Blanchard

I love to get away and connect with God through nature. Nothing beats being out deep in the woods, by a waterfall or a quiet pond, and soaking in the beauty all around you. That’s my kind of wilderness experience. But in Biblical times the wilderness wasn’t considered a place of rest – it was considered a dangerous place, full of unpleasantness. For example, after the Israelites crossed the Sea, God had them wander in the wilderness for 40 years. It wasn’t for a relaxing vacation! After Jesus’ baptism, he was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. In the story of his baptism, he had a vision of the Holy Spirit descending upon him in the appearance of a dove. But immediately after that “the Spirit drove

Him into the wilderness.” If at that point the Spirit was still in the form of a little bird, I imagine it was like a scene out of an Alfred Hitchcock movie, with the bird pecking at him and prodding Jesus to get out of there! The scripture says the Spirit “drove” him into the wilderness. Some translations say “immediately the Spirit forced him into the wilderness.” Apparently, the wilderness was a place that even Jesus wouldn’t want to go!

What compels us to go into the wilderness? What is the Holy Spirit asking us to face in terms of temptations, hardship, or difficulty, as Jesus surely faced while he was being tested for 40 days in the wilderness? What is “a wilderness experience” for us? Is it loneliness? Is it illness? Is it the current coronavirus pandemic? A wilderness experience for us may be any or all of these things, or it could be so many other things.

The point is, like it was for Jesus, it can be a learning experience. Whatever our particular wilderness experience may be, it’s a challenging time during which we endure trials and tests. We may feel discouraged, because all the pleasant things of life are taken away, or at least cannot be enjoyed as they once were. It can be a time of intense spiritual attack. It doesn’t mean we’re doing anything wrong – it just means we are being brought to a time of God-ordained testing. It’s a learning experience.

Even during our wilderness experiences, God is still with us. Jesus was physically weak from exhaustion and hunger, but he stayed strong against temptations by remembering God’s word. Angels helped Jesus. Who are the angels that help us during our wilderness experiences? Maybe someone happened to say just the right thing to us. Maybe someone offered up a prayer on

our behalf. Maybe we received the right kind of help at just the right time. Those are all examples of angels that God sends to tend to our needs. We also need to ask ourselves: can we be angels – ministering spirits – to others when they are having a wilderness experience? Of course we can! We just need to be aware, to stand ready as a ministering spirit without being intrusive. People go through wilderness experiences all the time. We can tend to needs, and be “angels” that show God is with us always.

Think of a wilderness experience you’ve had, or that you are living through now. What is God asking you to face? What can you learn? As believers, we are called to trust in God, to find peace and strength in the midst of trouble – those wilderness experiences – and through it all to grow in spiritual maturity in our walk with God. Amen.

Late spring questions for the Garden Lady

This question came from Peggy, who gardens in Belchertown: “I always enjoy reading your column, and finally I got up the nerve to ask you a question. Last year, and for the first time ever, I grew elephant’s ears. Just as you said to do, I dug them up before the first frost. They looked so good, surprisingly, that I kept three of them in pots in a room on the north side of my house where they only received a bit of indirect sunlight each day. I watered them throughout the winter and they put out some new growth. When the danger of frost had passed, I brought them directly outside of the room they were in, figuring I would harden them off before planting them in the garden. Before long, however, the leaves yellowed, and turned brown in patches. Do you have a guess as to what happened?”

I am surmising your plants got scalded from the wind and/or the sun. The intensity of the light change from a nearly dark room to outdoors with the wind on top of that, likely shocked the plant. I recommend you cut back any foliage that is too far gone and move the pots to a very protected, shady area. With any hope, the plants will regrow and you will get some enjoyment out of them this summer. When frost threatens, unearh the tubers and store in them in a pot of vermiculite or wrap in paper and store in empty pots at fifty degrees. Pre-start them in a sunny window in late March and gradually acclimatize to the outdoors in mid-May. Good luck!

Cutworms

Cutworms are a big problem right now. I have seen many in my own garden. Here is an updated version of answers to a ques-

tion that ran a few years back, figuring you may find it useful.

I ran into my old friend Don at the dentist office when this question arose: “I planted a lot of cabbage a few weeks back and in the morning I notice that some of the plants are cut off, right at the base. What is doing this? I find it strange that they aren’t exactly eaten, just lying there!”

The pest you mention is the dreaded cutworm. There is nothing more disappointing to visit the garden and see the pepper or broccoli plant that you nurtured indoors for weeks or months chopped down at the soil line in a single night and left there to wither in the sun. According to Barbara Pleasant in “The Gardener’s Bug Book,” (Storey Publishing \$14.95) cutworms are most active at night. It is then that the moth larvae circle around the plant to grab a bite or two. Efficient as they are at eating, this snack is all they need for now, but left to their own devices they can ravage the garden of its tender seedlings in just a few evenings. Cutworm collars are the first line of defense. Simply encircle them with strips of heavy paper buried a couple of inches deep. Pint-sized ice cream containers with the bottom cut or the waxy containers that soy milk or orange juice come in work great too and are easily cut to the right size with a pair of scissors. If you already lost a few plants, dig around in the soil next to them and chances are you’ll find the soft, hairless caterpillar nearby. Be brave and squish it. Better yet feed it to your chickens, mine find them especially tasty. One wife’s tale was to put a long nail next to the seedlings. I tried it once, still had cutworms, then had to get all the nails out of my garden!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the

Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



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CLUES ACROSS			
1. Most courageous	33. Distinctive practices	2. Replace the interior of	27. Comments to the audience
8. Insurance giant	34. Motor vehicles	3. Not awake	28. Tears down
13. Small trace left behind	35. Electrodes	4. Roman numeral 7	29. Gifts for the poor
14. In a way, signals	38. Polish river	5. Sun up in New York	30. More painful
15. The same letter or sound at the beginning	39. Human feet	6. Institute legal proceedings against	32. Good friend
19. The Great Lakes State	44. Toppin and Kenobi are two	7. Bugs homeowners don't want	34. Lying in the same plane
20. Engage in a contest	45. Blackbird	8. Maltese-Italian composer	35. Line in a polygon
21. Drinks served to celebrate a birth (Spanish)	46. One point west of due south	9. Very long period of time	36. Clouds of gas and dust
22. Manpower	47. Large beer	10. Touchdown	37. Norse god
23. Undivided	48. Third stomachs	11. Agents of downfall	38. Health care pro
24. Strong, magnetic metal	49. Rare Korean family name	12. Complacently or inanely foolish	40. Close tightly
25. People of Tanzania	50. Hectoliter	16. Argentina capital	41. One's holdings
26. Sorts	51. Aquatic invertebrate	Buenos __	42. Became less intense
30. Cop car accessory	55. Where we live	17. County in New Mexico	43. Wilco frontman
31. Trade	57. Poked holes in	An electrically charged atom	45. Woman (French)
32. Sullen and ill-tempered	58. Partner to ways	22. New Zealand conifer	48. Expresses delight
	59. __ Ann	25. Type of brandy	51. TV channel (abbr.)
	CLUES DOWN		52. Beverage
	1. Expressions of approval		53. Unit of work or energy
			54. Cleaning accessory
			56. Dorm worker

RETIREMENT ■ from page 4

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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Jacob Graham Baeder
Emily Rebekah Ball
William John Balzano
Abel Barbaneagra
Daniella Barkyoub
Hanna Elizabeth Bartolucci
Kimberly Annie Beaver
Christian Joel Beavis
Tyler Roy Benjamin
Vincent Anthony Bianco
Caden R. Billings
Trinity Lea Blanchet
Sofia Marie Blanchette
Trinity Ellen Boliski
Joshua Aaron Bouchard
Reese Taylor Bourgeois
Madison Grace Braska
Noah Britton
Jenalyn Rose Broussard
Delaney Ann Brown
Jason D. Bryant, Jr.
Kevin Robert Bryden
Paige Elizabeth Budington
Nicholas Daniel Burbank
Ryan Philip Butler
Tugrulhan Caglar
Hannah Marie Cahill
Phillip Nathanael Capdeville
Isabella Mia Caputo
Braiden Lee Carroll
Madeline Grace Cascio
Kayla Henson Case
Nicholas James Castro
James Leo Chenevert
Jordan F. Childs
Kaan Mehmet Cicek
Tyrell A'mor Cobham
Austin Cohen
Dale James Consolini
Hector Scott Cordero
Keeley Margaret Cote
Serena Christine Croteau
Nathan Luis Cruz
Gianna Bella-Rose Curto
Emily Rose Czupta
David Carl Dagenais

Jordyn Faye Daley
Jessica Delvina D'Amours
Emma Elaine Daunais
Justin John Davis
Hannah Marie Davydov
Frank James DeGray
Ryan Isabel Del Barba
Nicole Elisabeth DePergola
Marissa Danielle Deslauriers
Arianna Elise Diaz
Thalia Monique Diaz-LaCasse
Anthony John Dillard
Ava Michelle Duffy
Emily Nicole Ehresman
Mohamed Eltahir Elbakri
Julianna Rose Faillace
Cristina Shae Ferraro
Christian Gregory Fisk
Jocelyn Danielle Fonseca
Jason William Forward
Madeline Gallegos
Katherine Paige Gauthier
Chase Albert Gentile
Samantha Ann Gentile
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McKenna Dean Gilroy
Amelia Anna Gioscia
Joseph Todd Glaessner
Andrea Valentina Gomez Marin
Benjamin Michael Gordon
Taylor Grace Gosselin
Joseph Donald Goudreau
Tyler Anthony Gouvan
Andrew Charles Grasso
Hope Elizabeth Gravanis
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Kalene Victoria Hamel
Chelcey A. Hammond
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Sang-Hyo Han
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Daniel Joseph Harpin, Jr.
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Molly Ann Hastings
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Samuel Louis Hodovanec
James R. Houle

Sophia Lynn Hunt
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Yeva Pavlivna Meleshko
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Erin Grace Mikuszewski
Victoria A. Miller

Sophia Katherine Moccio
Gabriella Mackenzie Mortensen
Eric David Muldrew
Benjamin James Nemchinsky
Julia Christine Nicosia
Chelsea Jules Normand
Tia Debra Nuzzolilli
Eric William Olson
Elijah Juan Ortega
William R. Ortiz
Laine David Page
Cara Marie Pagnoni
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Cheyenne Nicole Pease
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Christian M. Rua
Emma Jenni Rubacha
David Ruel
Joseph Damas Ruel
Sofia May Ruiz
Damien David Ryan
Olivia Lynn Salva
Alfredo Jacob Santos, Jr.
Sage Isabel Sarrazin
Jackson Scott Schlosser
Jocelynn Marie Schmuck
Makenzie Hailey Shean
Kiley Erin Sheehan
Katherine Mae Shepard
Vanessa Pearl Shepardson
Kyle Robert Shields

Colin David Shlosser
Alexandra Shur
Rachel Nicole Sills
Jessie Erin Smith
Summer Diana Smith
Talal Ali Soffan
Annabella J. Spinney
Matthew Thomas St Laurent
Emily Kathryn St. Pierre
Ryan Jeffrey Steele
Stephen Douglas Steinbock
Rowenn Olivia Stevens
Kaitlyn Aryana Stoddard
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McKenna Paige Strong
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Rilee Tourville
Athena Vanessa Trench
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Josephine Marie Typrowicz
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Nathan Richard Vining
Ella Shea Votzakis
Uyen Phuong Vu
William Thomas Walsh
Tyler Jonathan Wampler
Abigail Francis Waris
Joseph Edward Weyant
Emmerson Claire White
Kathryn Mary White
Brett Jeffrey Wilkie
Michael Allan Winer
Allie Janina Winiarski
Kaitlin Renae Winters
Oscar Douglas Joseph Wolfe
Antonia Josephine Wood
Lucas Elijah Woods
Abby Nichole Work
Sulamita Aleksandrovna
Yukhimets
Jennifer Pavlovna Yusenko
Jackson Paul Zampiceni
Marc Zgherea
Vladislav Zimokha
Emma Leigh Zollo
Zachary Xavier Zollo



For the first time, graduation is held outside of Agawam High School.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Principal Thomas Schnepf leads the AHS administration.



The procession begins for the ceremony.



Olivia Salva sings the National Anthem.

GRADUATION 2021



PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Asude Kumas and Emanuel Kordeanu await the ceremony.

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2021 TOP TEN



Sarah Ross



David Dagenais



Hannah Davydov



Christian Rua



Nicole Depergola



Olivia Salva



Kimberly Beaver



Cristina Ferraro



Joseph Goudreau



Julia Hampton



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GRADUATION 2021



Graduates Hope Santaniello and Keeley Cote.



Margaret Johnston receives her diploma. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Tyler Benjamin smiles as he gets his diploma.

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GRADUATION 2021

GRADUATION ■ from page 1

bright side in his speech, saying seniors got to live high school “like nobody ever has.”

“We learned the etiquette of pandemic high school,” said Dagenais. “For instance, if you are unsure of an answer, just turn your camera off. Football is in the spring, and indoor track is outside. The Class of 2021 will always be unique, all over the country. It was our optimism, during great disappointment that made this year so memorable. This group of teenagers lived their ‘greatest years’ during a pandemic.”

Class President Daniel Harpin celebrated the fact graduation was held in person and some senior activities were able to be held, including prom, and the Powder Puff game.

Harpin also reflected on the pandemic and how the conditions affected the Class of 2021.

“But to think of the memories that could have been made, which never occurred, is probably the most upsetting thing,” said Harpin. “As seniors, we are still in a state of mourning. We said farewell to a senior trip, an actual prom, two pep rallies, the kid party, and having our big student section at home games this year. But hey, we got new bleachers right? And while we may be saddened by these losses, there has been a bright side to this pandemic. Joining class from bed, naps...so many naps..., no mid-terms or finals, and our Wi-Fi conveniently ‘going out’ making us late for our Google

Meets. Hey, I was even the only kid in my class not once, but twice.”

Despite the distance, Harpin believes his class was stronger and closer than ever.

“This year has made us all stronger in many unique ways,” said Harpin. “And I don’t think our class has ever been more unified than it is right now. We have all grown more independent from our remote learning days, with no teachers over our shoulders and no bells to keep us marching forward.”

Valedictorian Sarah Ross said a newfound appreciation for the things they took for granted was found during the pandemic.

“The hard work of great teachers that have always gone above and beyond was finally recognized,” said Ross. “And I think that we all regarded the lessons learned at school as something worth fighting for. Our perceptions evolved, and we saw how incredibly fortunate we had been to receive the opportunity to learn, grow, and excel throughout our educational tenure. I believe we owe a resounding thank you to our mayor, our school committee, and our administration.”

Superintendent Sheila Hoffman, Mayor William Sapelli, and AHS Principal Thomas Schnepf also spoke at the ceremony. All three expressed similar sentiments, showing pride in the community and with the Class of 2021 for enduring the uncertain conditions, remote learning, and the number of restrictions they had to deal with.

CEREMONY ■ from page 1

tion also broadcast the ceremony, and it was also available through online streaming.

All the bases were covered on a hot day as water was continuously distributed throughout the area, a medical tent was close by for anyone that needed medical attention, and speeches were kept short to keep the overall ceremony down to about 90 minutes.

Karetka recognized the team effort that took place and said no part of planning the ceremony was easy.

“All of it,” Karetka said when asked what the hardest part of planning the ceremony was. “But there was a lot of people working really hard to make this happen. It was all about trying to honor the seniors.”

AHS’s graduation ceremony, up until two years ago, was traditionally held at Springfield Symphony Hall, a cozy, but air-conditioned facility. Schnepf said he thinks it would be Agawam’s goal to return to the venue next year.

“It’s something we have always done,” said Schnepf. “You’re also at the mercy of the weather when holding the ceremony outside.”



Congratulations JULIA ALLEN!

We are so happy to share in the excitement of your graduation day. We are very proud of you and cannot wait for you to start your college journey. You will do great things. Good luck at Worcester State.

Love Mom & Kevin



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GRADUATION 2021



The graduates assemble on the Agawam High School turf field.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Samantha Lubarsky shows her decorated cap for graduation.



Graduates Julia Nicosia, Chelsea Normand, and Tia Nizzolilli.



Celebrating the Class of 2021 at the entrance way.



Graduates begin to take their seats.



This year's format showed six-person sections for each graduate. Each is designated with a sign for that graduate.



As has become customary, seniors decorated their caps with various designs and sayings.



A large tron was used so guests in the back rows could better see the stage.



Superintendent Sheila Hoffamn addresses the Class of 2021.



Mayor William Sapelli, who also chairs the school committee, gives his thoughts.



Class President Daniel Harpin speaks to his class.



Valedictorian Sarah Ross speaks to her classmates.

SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

Brownies win in four

WILBRAHAM – Last week, Agawam and Minnechaug continued their great boys volleyball rivalry, with Agawam coming out on top 3-1. Agawam was on its way to a sweep before Minnechaug came back to take the third set. Agawam then picked up the fourth set to take the match.



Ryan Butler reaches out to make a bump.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Matt Nigro makes a high set.



Joe Weyant attempts to set the ball over the net.



Kyle Shields goes for a spike.

RACING

Perry, Bryne gets wins at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Nutmeg State teen Jacob Perry copped the biggest prize Saturday, June 5, at Monadnock Speedway, winning the 100-lap Modified Racing Series main event while, on the same card, three other drivers earned their first victory lap of the summer.

NHSTRA Modified strongman Ben Byrne won his 40-lap feature, Justin Littlewood stormed to victory in the Late Model Sportsman, and Jake Bosse, who started the season as a Young Gun, earned his career-first Pure Stock win.

Mini Stock ace Gordon Farnum soared into the points lead with his second 2021 feature win, while Street Stocker Tommy O’Sullivan and Young Gun Fast Eddie Petruskevicious also won

for the second time.

Hometrack hot shoe Kirk Alexander – he of 31 MRS feature victories – started on row one in the night’s main event, taking the lead from polesitter Ryan Doucette on lap four and then setting his sights on duplicating his victory of 18 years ago when the Series debuted here on the high banks.

Russ Hersey would reel Alexander in and for a while it seemed like old home day in the Milton Cat 100. The kid from Connecticut, though, Jacob Perry, had other ideas, taking charge just past mid-race and then leading open-wheel stalwarts Tommy Barrett and Ronnie Williams under the checkers. Hometracker Matt

MONADNOCK | page 12



BEN BYRNE WAS A WINNER IN THE 40-LAP EVENT AT MONADNOCK LAST WEEKEND.

SOCCER

Pioneers continue win streak with shutout over Malaga City

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – It has been three years since an opposing USL League Two soccer team walked into Lusitano Stadium and defeated the Western Mass. Pioneers.

FC Malaga City made their first ever visit to the 103-year-old only soccer specific stadium in New England last Friday night, and it was a long trip back to Lagrangeville, New York for them.

The Pioneers, who scored three first half goals and added another one with the help of a Malaga City player, coasted to a 4-0 victory before a large crowd on a beautiful late spring evening.

“We scored a few early goals in tonight’s game, which really helped us,” said Pioneer’s head coach Federico Molinari. “We always seem to play with a lot more confidence at home.”

The Pioneers (4-1-1) played four of their five regular season matches on the road. The players were excited to be playing in front of their faithful supporters again.

“This is by far the best stadium and the best fans in our league,” said starting forward Ignacio Lerech, who scored a goal and added an assist in the Pioneers first home win of the season. “I’ve played for two other USL-Two



Carlos Emery attempts to balance the ball after receiving a pass.



Patrick Agyemang heads toward the sideline for the Pioneers.



Marco Valero Perez sends a quick pass away.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
Declan Sung goes after a 50/50 ball.

PIONEERS | page 12

Sports

Falmouth Road Race to resume, event set for Aug. 15

FALMOUTH – Falmouth Road Race, Inc., organizers of the 49th Annual ASICS Falmouth Road Race, one of America’s premier running events of the summer season, today announced that it will host a field of 8,000 in-person runners for its upcoming event on Sunday, Aug. 15.

Those who registered during the initial registration window and selected, “If given the chance, I would like to run in Falmouth” will be guaranteed a place within the limited in-person field. Runners who have not yet registered but are looking to secure a guaranteed in-person spot in this year’s event can do so by registering to run on behalf of a charity. A comprehensive list of 164 charitable organizations is available by visiting www.falmouthroadrace.com/charity-program. For more information on general registration, please visit www.falmouthroadrace.com.

“On the heels of Governor Charlie Baker’s announcement lifting all coronavirus restrictions in Massachusetts effective May 29, and after close consultation with the Town of Falmouth, public safety officials, our medical team, and our partners, we are excited to announce a field

of 8,000 in-person runners for the 49th ASICS Falmouth Road Race,” said Scott Ghelfi, president of the Falmouth Road Race, Inc. Board of Directors. “We are excited to welcome athletes back to Falmouth for this summer tradition and we look forward to welcoming a full field for our 50th running next August.”

Aside from the newly announced in-person portion, the 49th ASICS Falmouth Road Race will still feature a virtual SBLI Kids At-Home Challenge and the race’s At-Home Edition, where participants will lace up their running shoes and go seven miles in their own neighborhoods between Aug. 7 to 14.

For nearly 50 years, Falmouth Road Race, Inc. has promoted health, wellness and pride in the community. In these unprecedented and uncertain times, the organization is striving to be consistent in its mission, continuing to provide its dedicated athletes, enthusiasts, and the community with an event to be proud of and one that supports people in need.

For more information, or to register, visit www.falmouthroadrace.com. Follow us on Facebook or at @falmouthroadrace on Instagram.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.”

We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and

share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

MONADNOCK ■ from page 11

Kimball came home fourth, and Alexander rounded out the top five.

Ben Byrne took control of the NHSTRA Modified main on lap three and never looked back. This was a wild one. Matt Kimball claimed the deuce, while Trevor Bleau marched forward twice to come home third aboard the Gomarlo 76 ride.

Aaron Fellows, like Bleau, recovered from earlier excitement to come home fourth. Kimmy Rivet was fifth, while points leader Todd Patnode was bounced around for 13th on the night.

Brehio’s strong run netted him runner-up honors, while youthful strongman Cam Curtis struggled with tire issues all night before claiming third when Robert Hagar, Ryan Currier, and Hayden Scott finished the show in a turn-two heap.

Tommy O’Sullivan charged from row six in the Street Stock main to take charge on lap 14 and then storm away to duplicate his opening night feature win. Strong and

steady Paul Smith was the silver medallist, Nate Wenzel came home third, while points leader Chris Buffone struggled in tenth.

Mini Stock musclemen Gordon Farnum and Ray King started side-by-side again, this week firing from row four. Farnum took the lead from Kevin Clayton and blasted off to his second win of the summer and, with it, passed King for the points lead.

Clayton completed his rock-solid outing in second, with potent Kevin Cormier coming home third.

Just three weeks ago, Jake Bosse was just a kid winning a couple of Young Guns features.

Saturday, the Greenfield, N.H. youth speedster took the Pure Stock lead from Cory Lofland on lap two and sped away to his career-first win, keeping 50-years-young star Chris Davis in his shadow the final 11 laps. JD Stockwell was strong in third.

Fast Eddie Petruskevicious led all the way in the caution-free Young Guns 15. He was joined in trophy row by Teagan Edson and Leilei Daniels.

sitano Stadium during the fifth minute of last Friday’s match.

The scoring play began with Lerech sending a crossing pass to Agyemang on the right side. He then sprinted towards the goal before firing a low shot into the left corner past goalie Daniel Atherton.

“It was a great feeling scoring a goal in front of the home fans,” said Agyemang, who’s from East Hartford, Conn. “We played with a lot of energy right from the start of tonight’s game. We also have a lot of depth, which is very important.”

The Pioneers managed to post their third shutout of the season without two key starters. Maxi Viera, who’s the Pioneers captain, and Connor Hicks, who’s from Monson, sat out the second home match of the season with injuries.

Agyemang and Lerech have built a good chemistry during the first six matches of the season.

“Ignacio and I have been working together at practice. The hard work paid off

Western United Pioneers announce 2021 tryouts for all youth teams

LUDLOW – The Western United Pioneers organization has announced the 2021 tryouts. WUP FC is excited to hold 2021-2022 season tryouts. Tryouts are for boys and girls of all age groups (2016 - 2003 birth years).

For players born from 2014 - 2017, we welcome you to come visit our open house to sign up for the Developmental Academy Program (2014-2016) and the First Kick Program (no need to try out

for 2017). This registration session will allow you to complete contact information, and sign up for participation. Please read through each page carefully to ensure that all information is provided accurately. Each player should bring water, a ball, shin guards, and wear a white or grey shirt.

Go to www.westernunitedpioneers.sportngin.com to look for registration information and the full tryout schedule.

‘SuperFan’ exhibit on display at Hall

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame recently hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony following its \$25+ million museum refurbishment which launched in 2017. Among the newest exhibits is the James F. Goldstein SuperFan Gallery – a space dedicated to celebrating the most iconic fans of the game including Toronto’s Nav Bhatia, Los Angeles’s late SuperFan Penny Marshall and Jimmy Goldstein himself.

“The Basketball Hall of Fame is distinct in that we celebrate all levels and aspects of the game for both men and women,” said John Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. “We are excited to recognize the game’s greatest SuperFans in this unique exhibit showcasing their memorabilia and custom attire they’ve become known for at games. In tribute to all fans of the game, through their support and fanfare, SuperFans have certainly played a role in the game for many years. We look forward to continuing to recognize additional SuperFans in the years to come.”

Items on display in the exhibit include:

- Jimmy Goldstein iconic apparel and momentous tickets and credentials from his many years as a SuperFan
- Nav Bhatia turban, SuperFan Jersey and courtside chair
- Penny Marshall collection of signed jerseys and shoes
- SuperFan stories and images shared through digitized media

“The game of basketball has brought me so much joy over the years, in Los Angeles and in the countless arenas around the world I’ve been fortunate to experience,” said Jimmy Goldstein, NBA SuperFan. “I’m proud to share some of my most favorite items I’ve collected over the years and be featured in this remarkable exhibit dedicated to the fans.”

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and James F. Goldstein SuperFan Gallery are now open to the public. For more information, please call the Basketball Hall of Fame’s Ticket Office at (413) 231-5513 or visit www.hoophall.com.

Next Saturday, June 12, the NHSTRA Modifieds will run twin 35-lap Quest For The Cup events atop a full card of racing at Monadnock Speedway. For more information, please visit www.monadnockspeedway.com.

MONADNOCK SPEEDWAY JUNE 5:

M.R.S. MILTON CAT 100 (Top 10): Jacob Perry, Tommy Barrett, Ronnie Williams, Matt Kimball, Kirk Alexander, Cory Plummer, Kyle James, Donnie Lashua, Cam Sonntag, Nathan Wenzel.

NHSTRA MODIFIEDS: Ben Byrne, Matthew Kimball, Trevor Bleau, Aaron Fellows, Kimberley Rivet, Cory Plummer, Christopher Jackman, Eric LeClair, Kirby Goodrich, Tyler Leary, Scott MacMichael, 44-Brian Chapin, Todd Patnode, Solomon Brow, Cameron Sontag, Dave Salzarulo, James Cloutier, Cameron Houle

LATE MODEL SPORTSMEN (UNOFFICIAL): Justin Littlewood, Austin Brehio, Camdyn Curtis, Chase Curtis, Dan Comeau, Ryan Currier, Hayden Scott, Robert

Hagar, Cole Littlewood, Nancy Muni Ruot.

STREET STOCKS: Tommy O’Sullivan, Paul Smith, Nathan Wenzel, Jason Kozacka, Hillary Renaud, Mike Radzuik, Greg Williams, Chris Lindquist, Joe Arena, Chris Buffone, Keith Johnson, Nathaniel Nunez, Timothy Wenzel, Rupert Thompson, Leighton Lutz

MINI STOCKS: Gordon Farnum, Kevin Clayton, Kevin Cormier, Louie Maher, Jeff Asselin, Kevin McKnight, Jake Puchalski, Ricky Whipple, Josh Hubbard, Bill Chaffee, Jeff Heath, Matthew Lambert, Raymond King, Deion Russell, (DNS) Tim LeBlanc, (DNS) Michael Douglas

PURE STOCKS: Jake Bosse, Chris Davis, JD Stockwell, Cory Lofland, Jason LeRay, Jimmy Zellman, Nick Houle, Carter Chamberlin, Billy Graham, Ryan Lawliss, Damien Houle, Kyle Robinson Newell, (DNS) Nathan Roy

YOUNG GUNS: Eddie Petruskevicious, Teagan Edson, Leilei Daniels, Eddie Gomarlo, Jeff Moffat Jr., Aaliyah Tacy, Dominick Stafford.

PIONEERS ■ from page 11

teams, but this team is like one big family. I’m very happy to be playing here this year.”

Lerech, who’s from Tucuman, Argentina, has scored a team-leading three goals this season.

When the Pioneers and Malaga City (1-4-1) faced each other for the first time on May 15, Lerech came off the bench and scored a late goal giving the Pioneers a 1-0 road win.

“That was my first game playing for this team and when I scored that goal late in the game, it was just an amazing feeling,” said Lerech, who also scored a goal in a 2-0 win at AC Connecticut. “I just want to help my team win anyway that I can.”

Another first-year Pioneers player is Patrick Agyemang, who scored his first goal of the season in the home opener against the Seacoast United Phantoms, which ended in a 1-1 draw on May 21.

Agyemang scored his second goal at Lu-

for us in tonight’s game,” Agyemang said. “We’re starting to gel as a team.”

A couple of minutes later, the Pioneers took a 2-0 lead when the ball deflected off a Malaga City defender into the net for an own goal.

During the 26th minute, Lerech received a pass from defender Carlos Emery and chipped a shot over two defenders into the left corner of the net increasing the Pioneers lead to 3-0.

With less than five minutes remaining in the opening half, Agyemang sent a pass from the left end line into the box where defender Jordan Koduak knocked the ball into the back of the net giving the home team a commanding 4-0 lead.

It was Koduak’s second goal of the season.

“It’s always nice to have a 4-0 halftime lead,” Molinari said. “You do have to worry about your team relaxing a little bit in the second half with a big lead. We just need to keep improving in every game.”

Down at the other end of the field, Blake Mullen didn’t have to make any saves in recording his third shutout of the season.

The dynamic duo of Agyemang and Lerech were replaced by Guillermo Deal and Khalid Rose twenty minutes into the second half.

With ten minutes remaining in regulation, Evan Fournier, who graduated from Belchertown High School in 2019, made his first appearance for the Pioneers at Lusitano Stadium. His only shot attempt of match sailed over the crossbar.

“Evan has been on our roster since the beginning of the regular season. We were able to give him the opportunity to get some playing time during the second half of tonight’s game,” Molinari said. “It’s always nice to have the local soccer players on your team.”

The Pioneers will be looking to continue their winning ways at Lusitano Stadium when they host AC Connecticut at 7:30 on Friday night.

Velis sponsors amendment to fund substance abuse issues

BOSTON - On Wednesday, May 26, the Massachusetts State Senate unanimously adopted two amendments sponsored by Senator John C. Velis during its Fiscal Year 2022 Budget debate. Amendment No. 478 provides \$800,000 to RecoveryWorks, an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital that provides employment opportunities and supports to individuals throughout the Commonwealth who struggle with substance use disorders. Amendment #409 allocates \$100,000 for the creation of a state-wide pilot program to increase access to Narcan and naloxone kits for school districts.

"Re-entering the workforce is such an important step for individuals in re-

covery. It is a chance for them to grow and regain self-confidence, develop tangible skills, and make connections that will lead them further down their career paths. Most importantly though, employment provides individuals in recovery with a stability that is difficult to find elsewhere," stated Senator Velis, who is Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. "Unfortunately, there still exists a deep stigma around substance use disorders, especially when it comes to employing someone who is in recovery. That is why the work of RecoveryWorks is so important and why the funding in this amendment is so critical."

RecoveryWorks provides participants with career advice and job search coaching; continued clinical support during the job search and initial employment; ongoing on-the-job mentorship; and assistance with legal and healthcare issues. While in the program participants must also agree to pursue addiction treatment as well. They also serve as liaisons to employers for up to five years in order to facilitate and ensure the participants are securing an effective long-term job.

On Wednesday, The Senate also voted unanimously to adopt amendment #409, which provides \$100,000 for a state-wide pilot program to increase access to Narcan and naloxone kits for school dis-

tricts.

"Western Massachusetts, and our Commonwealth as a whole, has seen far too many lives lost due to opioid overdoses, and we continue to fight this epidemic every single day. Increasingly concerning is the growing rate of opioid use in high school students," said Senator Velis. "The reality is our Commonwealth will continue to see this issue grow in this age group and opioid overdose-related deaths can be prevented when naloxone is administered in a timely manner. We can and must increase access to these life-saving medications in our communities, because in those terrifying minutes, every second is so critical."

Drive-in at the Big E to show new releases and classic films

WEST SPRINGFIELD - West Springfield Drive-In, in partnership with Eastern States Exposition, will be opened April 23 on The Big E Fairgrounds. The drive-in will feature two 45' by 60' screens and be able to accommodate 300 cars each, in a safe and socially distant family experience. The drive-in, located in the Gate 9 parking area, is authorized to show new release content, once available, as well as special livestream concerts and other events.

The drive-in is open on weekends

through the springtime and then seven days per week during the summer season through Labor Day and movies will begin at a time consistent with sunset. Closing for The Big E, scheduled Sept. 17 to Oct. 3, the drive-in will then reopen October through December for holiday themed experiences. Movies will be announced weekly and ticket sales will be available at the time of the announcement. In addition, a full concession stand will also be available for guests to not only enjoy pop-

corn, but popular Fair foods such as fried dough, fried Oreos, and cotton candy.

"We are pleased to bring this safe and socially distant family experience to the residents of West Springfield and the surrounding communities," said EJ Dean, President, FestEvents. "During the global pandemic, we successfully operated several drive-in theaters across the state of Massachusetts and we are grateful our partner, the Eastern States Exposition, is maximizing the use of the fairground space for the

benefit of those in the community."

"Some may recall the Memorial Drive-In, just down the street. We are delighted to carry on that tradition of safe, family fun and look forward to working with EJ and the FestEvent team," said Gene Cassidy, Eastern States Exposition President and CEO.

Please visit www.wsdrivein.com for details or connect on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westspringfield-drivein>.

Dress for Success holding Thursday, June 24 tag sale

SPRINGFIELD - Dress for Success Western Massachusetts will host another of its popular clothing tag sales—this time outside under a huge tent in the parking lot of the Eastfield Mall. Hundreds of women have refreshed their wardrobes at past tag sales, while at the same time supporting Dress for Success' mission to empower women to achieve economic independence.

Women can choose from an extensive array of clothing, shoes, accessories and more. These new and gently used items include selections from name-brand fashion houses such as Anne Klein, Evan Picone, Ellen Tracy and many more. Customers can fill a shopping bag for only \$25.

If you have clothing that you'd like to donate, please call 413-732-8179 to make an appointment.

Because the tag sale is outside, there will

not be rooms to try on clothes. If anyone buys something that doesn't fit, they can pass it on to friends or others in need. For everyone's safety, we respectfully suggest wearing a mask while inside the tent.

The tag sale will be held Friday, June 18, through Thursday, June 24, in the parking lot of the Eastfield Mall at 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, where Dress for Success maintains a boutique. Be sure to tell your friends and mark your calendar.

Volunteers are needed on June 14-17 to set up, June 18-24 to staff the tent, and June 25 to break down the event. If you are interested, please contact dressforsuccessspringfield@gmail.com.

For more information about Dress for Success Western Mass., please contact Executive Director Margaret Tantillo at (860) 638-8980.

COVID-19 testing extended

HOLYOKE — Free "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through September, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

However, effective June 1, testing will move to Parking Lot M by the Bartley Center for Athletics & Recreation on the opposite side of campus.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since last August to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H (or to parking lot M after June 1). There are signs and parking attendants on site to help guide traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations:

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>.

Scouts to hold bottle drive



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Troop 82 of Agawam will be conducting a bottle and can drive Saturday, June 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam. After being forced to cancel their annual pancake breakfast for the second year due to COVID restrictions, the Troop has turned to a bottle & can drive to be their major fundraiser this year. Funds raised will be used for troop activities, training, and gear. Founded in 1960, Troop 82 is Agawam's longest running Boy Scout troop. Troop 82 has a year-round program and accepts new members at any time. Scouts will follow current safety guidelines and can remove donations from your vehicle. They are also offering no contact pick up of donations before June 12th if desired. Please email troop82agawam@gmail.com to make arrangements.

Schools

Local students make Assumption Dean's List

WORCESTER - Assumption University has announced those students who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2021 semester.

Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Local students include: Nicole Rheaume and Grace Rinaldi of Agawam, and Taylor DeGeorge and Maria Riberdy of Feeding Hills (01030), Class of 2021.

SAT ■ from page 2

skills needed to do well on the exam. Students receive an in-depth review of the exam content, strategies for improving their scores, and a comprehensive study plan.

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Institute is \$499, which includes all books and materials as well as access to online resources through the end of the year. For more information, contact Brandon Fredette at bfredette@westfield.ma.edu or 413-572-8033. To register online for any of the available sessions, visit www.westfield.ma.edu/testprep.

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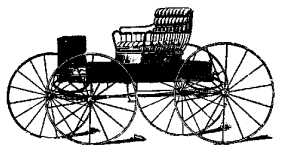
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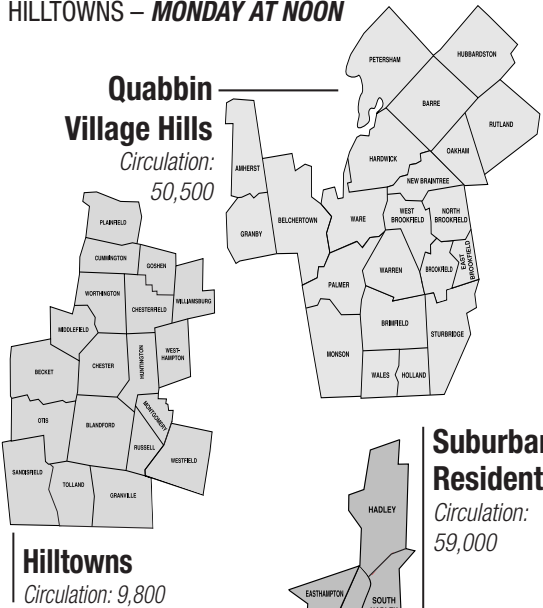
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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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WARM WEATHER IS Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD21P1002EA Estate of: Lynn Ann Arnold Also known as: Lynn A. Arnold, Lynn Arnold Date of Death: 01/31/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Mary F. Pothier** of West Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Mary F. Pothier** of West Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve

and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 01, 2021
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/10/2021

tion is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 28, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/10/2021

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA on **Monday, June 28, 2021 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Jackie Tang who

is seeking a Variance from the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Chapter 180-46(E) to allow for the construction of a residential dwelling with less than the required lot size at the premises identified as 24-26 Walnut Street.

Doreen A. Prouty
Chairperson
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals
06/03, 06/10/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD21P1023EA Estate of: Kevin Willard Date of Death: 05/09/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of**

Personal Representative has been filed by **Walter G Willard** of Agawam, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Walter G Willard** of Agawam, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/06/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance

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Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

1

Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2

Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3

Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

VETERANS ■ from page 1

"This lunch gives an opportunity for vets to come in and talk for a while," Hill said. "That's exactly how it was supposed to be held, we're glad to have people back inside."

Carlisle expressed a similar sentiment saying that it's good to have the program functioning as normal as possible after the pandemic last year. Church member Jim Shields attended the luncheon and ate with fellow church members as well as vets that visited his table, as everyone ate and gathered in good conversations. Veterans Robert Freeman and Chet Szymczyk attended the first in person luncheon and said they were glad to be gathered with fellow vets inside. Also, at their table was Lenny Scott who said he had been waiting for this lunch to be able to see people again rather than the drive through option held last week.

Lion's club members Sissy Cimma and John O'Hare spoke about putting on the lunch and getting the lunches ready, Cimma said that the Lion's Club buys all the ingredients and prepares all the meals prior to the lunch.

"We try to switch it up as much as possible for the meals, we try not to make the

same thing twice," Cimma said. "We always have protein and vegetables because we want to keep it well-rounded for the veterans."

Cimma also said that the Lion's Club prepared 50 meals for the luncheon and expected to get around 40-50 people for the first in person lunch.

O'Hare said 47 meals were passed out on Tuesday, June 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., hitting close to the 50-meal mark the club had prepared.

"We're aiming for 60 meals next month, we're hoping to get the word out some more and have more vets visit the church," O'Hare said. "The lunch is advertised on the Lion's Facebook Page."

The Lion's Club and St. David's church are hoping that more veterans visit for lunch next month on the first Tuesday again.

Lion's Club member City Councilor George Bitzas expressed that the lunch is to honor and welcome veterans, to give them a safe space to gather and interact together. It's not to be perceived as being for needy vets or to imply that vets are in need, the lunch is simply to bring people together and fill their stomachs while doing it.

O'Hare and Hill both said they'd like to see more vets and their families attend these luncheons. They'd like to serve more meals and have people gathered like normal, and get back into the flow of face-to-face interactions. Veterans who'd like to join the luncheon can head to the Agawam Lion's Club Facebook page for more information, or they can visit St. David's Episcopal Church the first Tuesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Left, Rev. Christopher Carlisle, Rev. Dr. Harvey Hill, Jim Shields, and John O'Hare gathered for the first in person lunch on June 1.



PHOTO BY SHELBY MACRI

From left; Bruce Fleming, Lenny Scott, Jackie Szymczyk, Joanne Freeman, Robert Freeman, and Chet Szymczyk enjoy the in-person veteran's lunch at St. David's.

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